

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02781 171102Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 171030Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4404

S E C R E T JIDDA 2781

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORV MASS, JO, US, SA

SUBJECT: HAWKS FOR JORDAN

REF: STATE 93531

1. YOUR MESSAGE IS RATHER DISAPPOINTING. I HAD HOPED FOR MORE SIGNS OF INITIATIVE FROM THE BUREAU AND THE EMBASSY AT AMMAN TO COMPLEMENT OUR EFFORTS HERE WHICH CONTINUE TO BE MADE DESPITE DEROGATORY REMARKS BY KING AND EUFAI WHICH WILL NOT HAVE A GOOD EFFECT ON SAUDIS. YOU KNOW THAT FAHD HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FULL TEXT OF OUR PROPOSALS, AND THAT I PROVIDED ADHAM ALSO WITH A COPY OF THEM.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY HUSSEIN OR RIFAI AT LEAST CANNOT TELEPHONE FAHD AND ASK FOR HIS HELP IN RESOLVING PROBLEM, AND IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T URGE THEM TO DO JUST THAT.

3. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CONSIDER IT "MOST IMPORTANT" THAT THE SAG NOT BE MISLED BY STATEMENTS THEY HAVE READ IN THE PRESS TO BELIEVE THE HAWK DEAL IS DEAD, BUT WHAT ELSE ARE THEY TO BELIEVE IF SUCH STATEMENTS ARE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO KING AND RIFAI AND ARE NOT DENIED? AS FOR HUSSEIN, IF HE WOULD "TURN TO THE SOVIETS" AFTER

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SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02781 171102Z

ALL THESE YEARS OF CODDLING BY THE UNITED STATES, THEN

SOMETHING HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY WRONG IN OUR HANDLING OF HIM.

4. WE ARE SUBMITTING A REQUEST THROUGH BOTH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND ROYAL DIWAN FOR A MEETING WITH FAHD ON THIS SUBJECT. I WOULD HELP ME CONSIDERABLY IF JORDANIANS WOULD (A) DENY OR RETRACT PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO KING AND RIFAI, AND (B) WOULD TELEPHONE FAHD TO EXPRESS THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST IN SAUDI ASSISTANCE, OR (C) GIVE YOU A MESSAGE FOR US TO PASS ON. THE ROLE OF A MEDIATOR IS RATHER DIFFICULT WHEN HE IS IN TOUCH WITH ONLY ONE OF THE PARTIES. I WOULD GUESS THAT FAHD WOULD SEE ME BETWEEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY IF HE IS DISPOSED AT ALL TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

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